

State of the Order 2023

**OFS-USA Chapter
Pallottine Renewal Center
Florissant, Missouri
August 22, 2023**

**Jane DeRose-Bamman OFS
National Minister, OFS-USA
on behalf of the National Executive Council (NEC)**

STATE OF THE ORDER

- ❑ 10 months on the job
- ❑ Bonding as a Council
- ❑ Animating and guiding



STATE OF THE ORDER

- ❑ Requests from Regions – Issues
- ❑ Requests from CIOFS - International Statutes
- ❑ Getting to know our Members (visitations and elections)
- ❑ Continuing NEC projects

STATE OF THE ORDER

❓ How do we achieve our National Priorities?

Action plans for:

- ❓ Vocations
- ❓ Communications
- ❓ Relationships



VOCATIONS

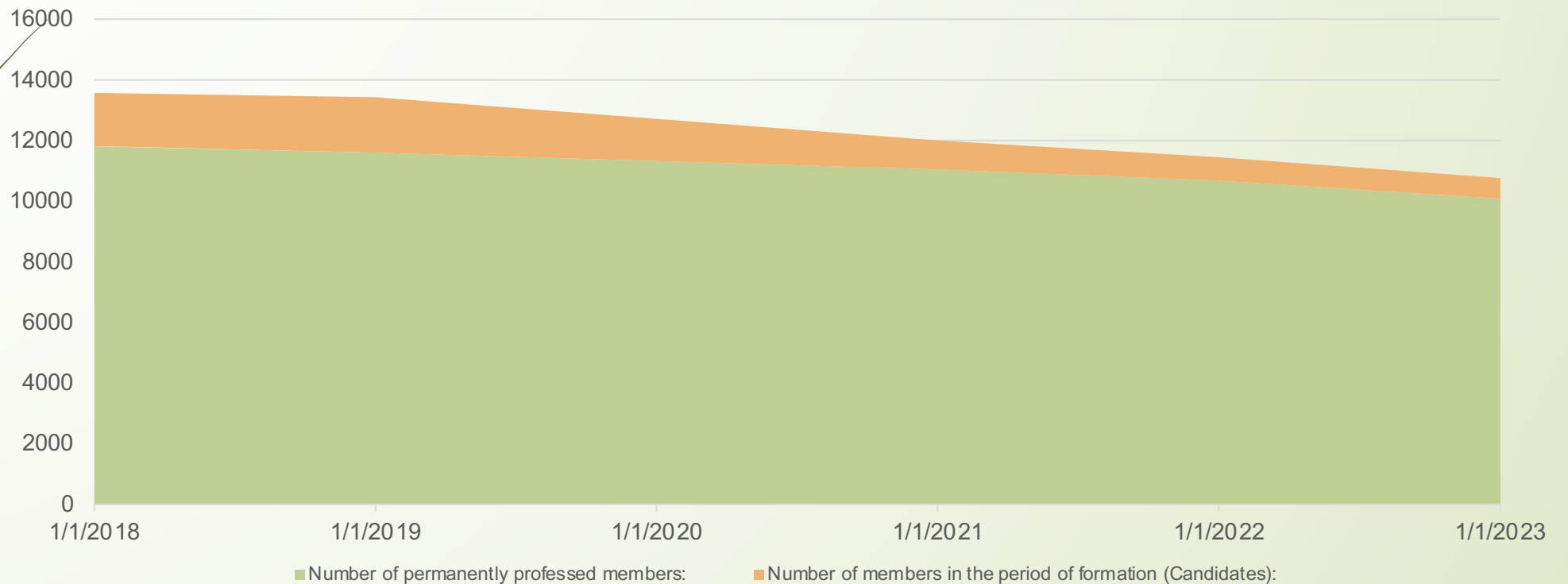
“The promotion of vocations to the Order is a duty of all the brothers and sisters and is a sign of the vitality of the Fraternities themselves. The brothers and sisters, convinced of the validity of the Franciscan way of life, should pray that God may give the grace of the Franciscan vocation to new members.”

GC Article 45.1

VOCATIONS

? Professed and Candidates

Number of OFS and Candidates 2018 - 2022



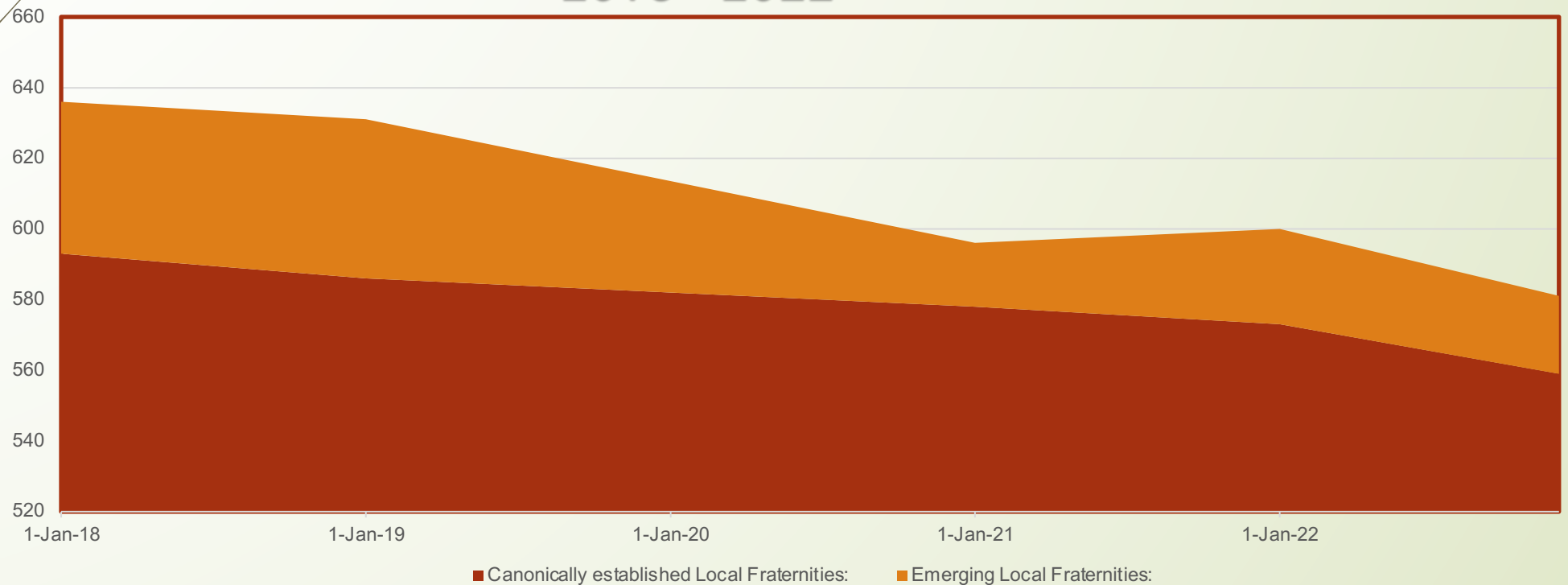
VOCATIONS

- ❑ 11,000 active members and candidates.
- ❑ The numbers have decreased over the years.
- ❑ Due to:
 - ❑ better information in the database,
 - ❑ members who have passed away or left the Order,
 - ❑ not drawing new vocations.

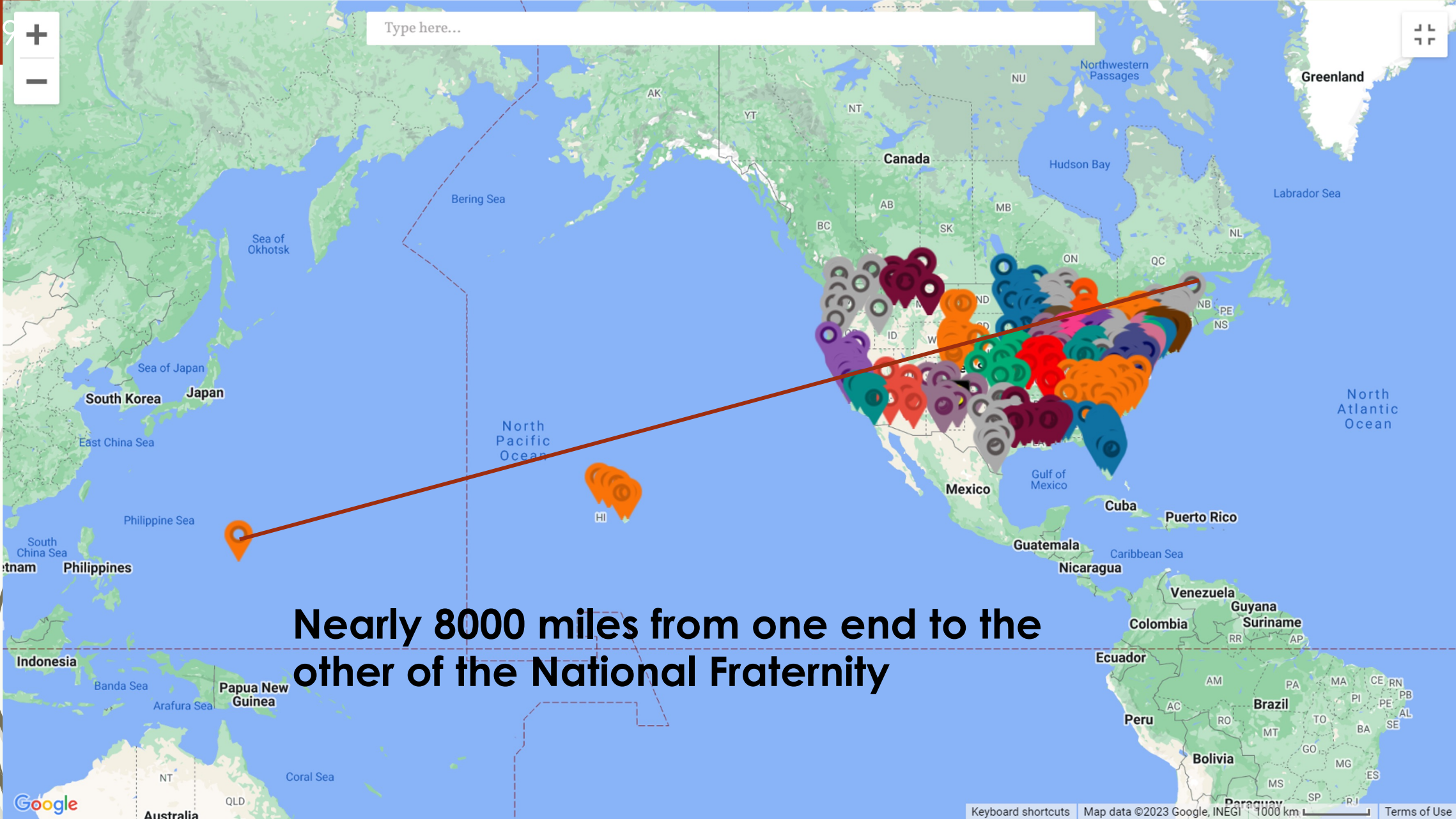
VOCATIONS

? Fraternities

Canonically Established Fraternities and Emerging Local Fraternities 2018 - 2022

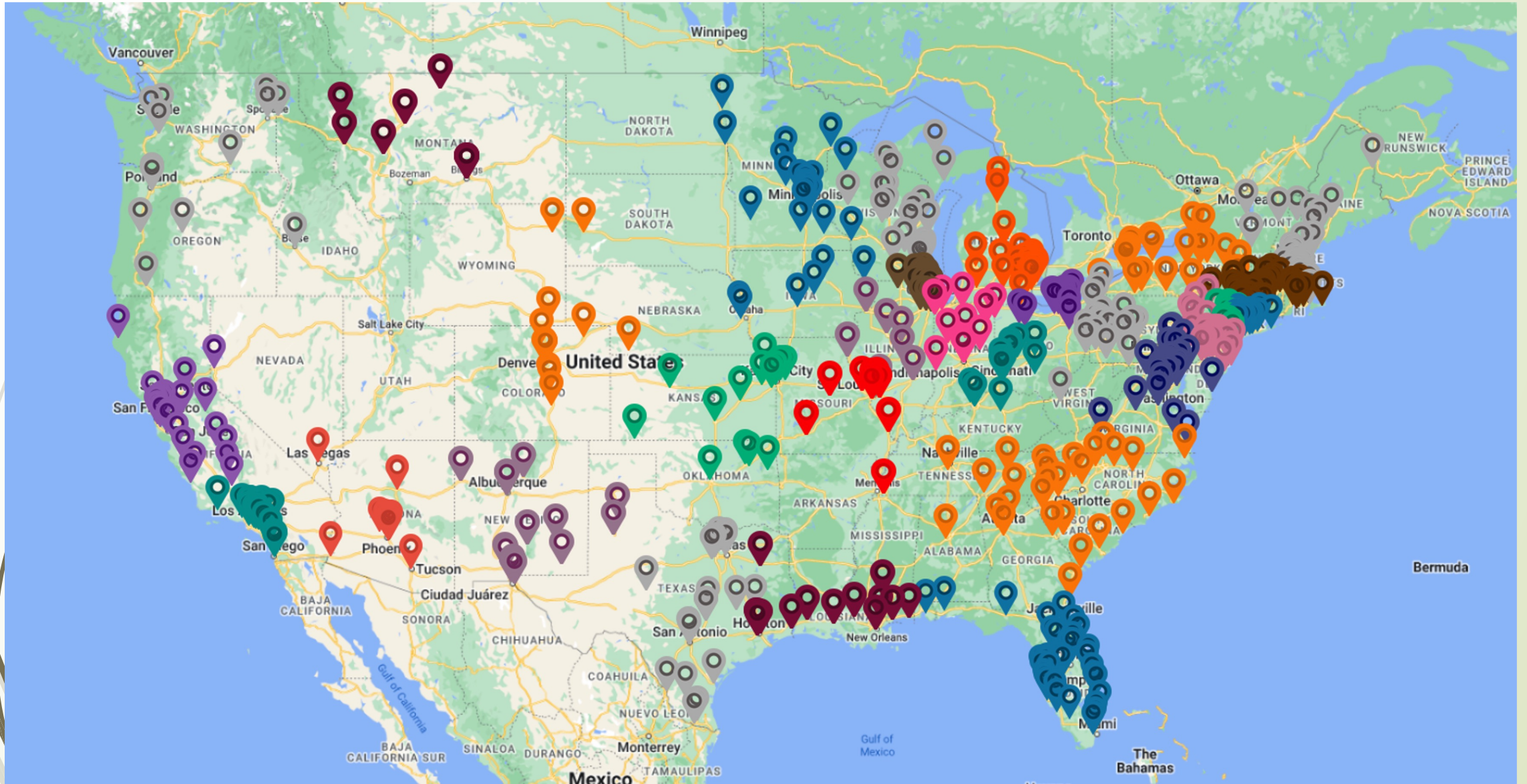


OFS-USA National Fraternity

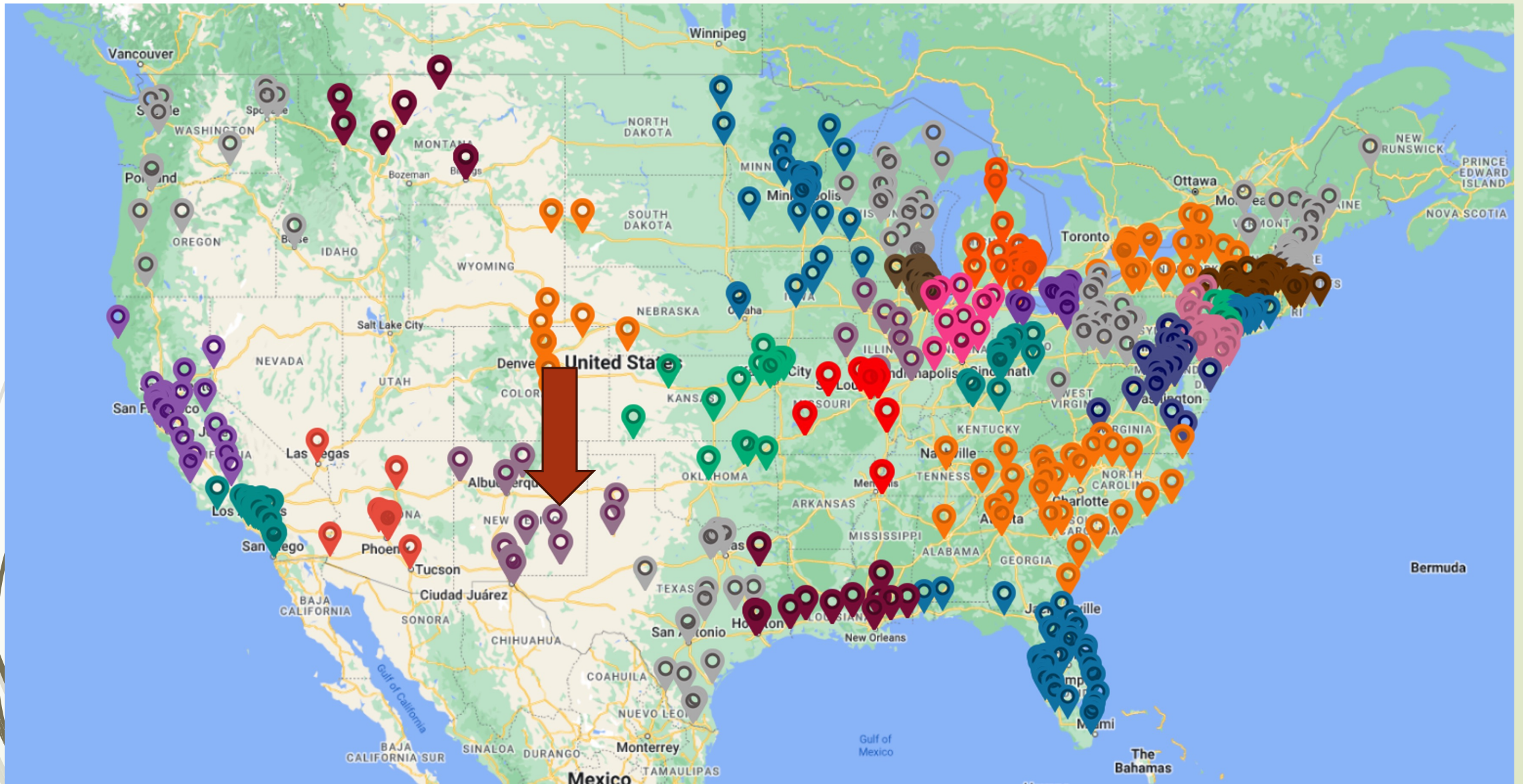


Nearly 8000 miles from one end to the other of the National Fraternity

OFS-USA National Fraternity (Mainland Fraternities)



OFS-USA National Fraternity (Mainland Fraternities)



VOCATIONS

? Interesting Statistics

? 30 Regional Fraternities

? 7 to 34 local fraternities

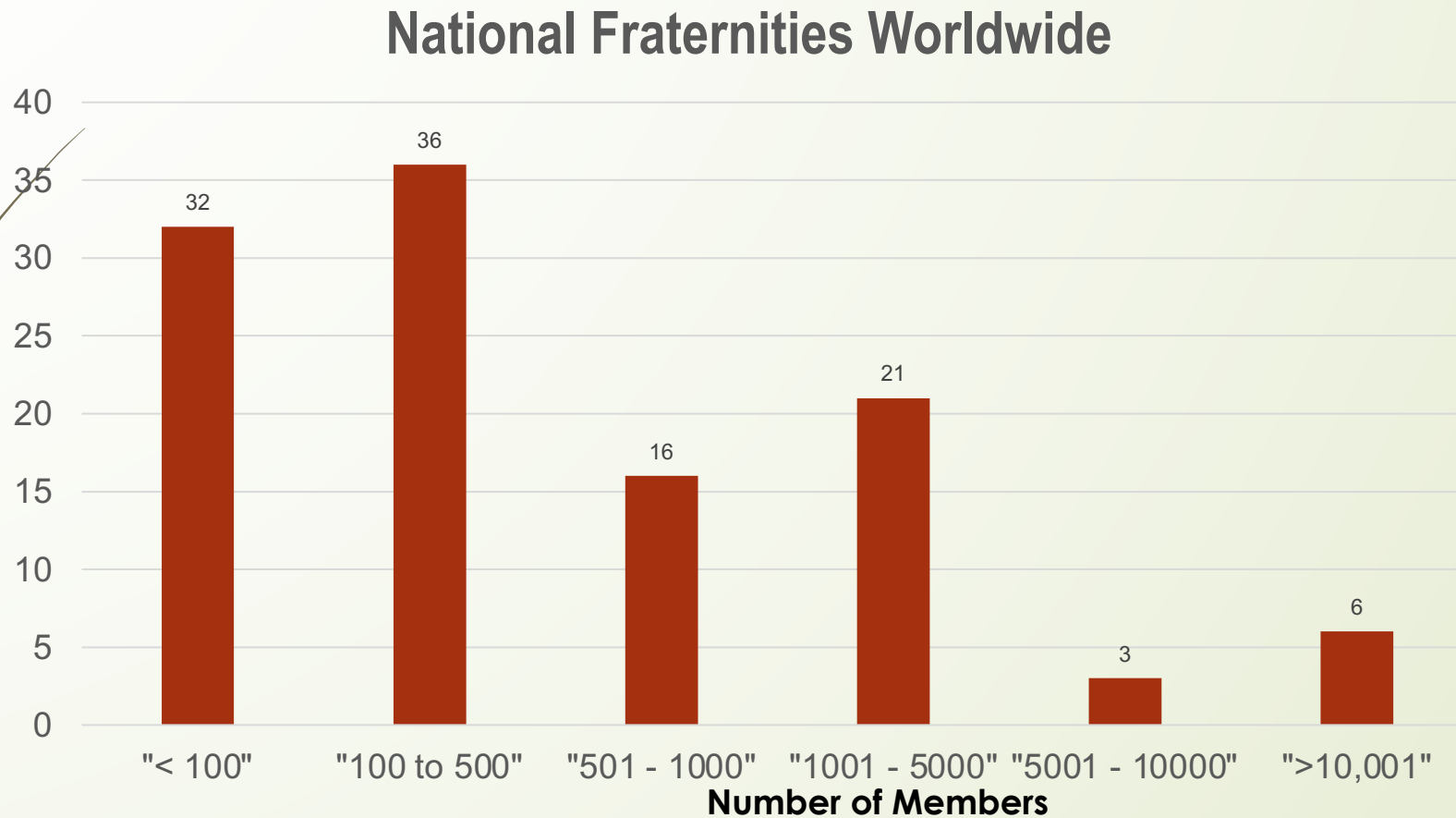
? 100 to 900 members

? Approximately 11% of members prefer to communicate in a language other than English.

? 5% Korean, 4% Spanish and 1% Vietnamese (the remaining 1% is comprised of several language groups)



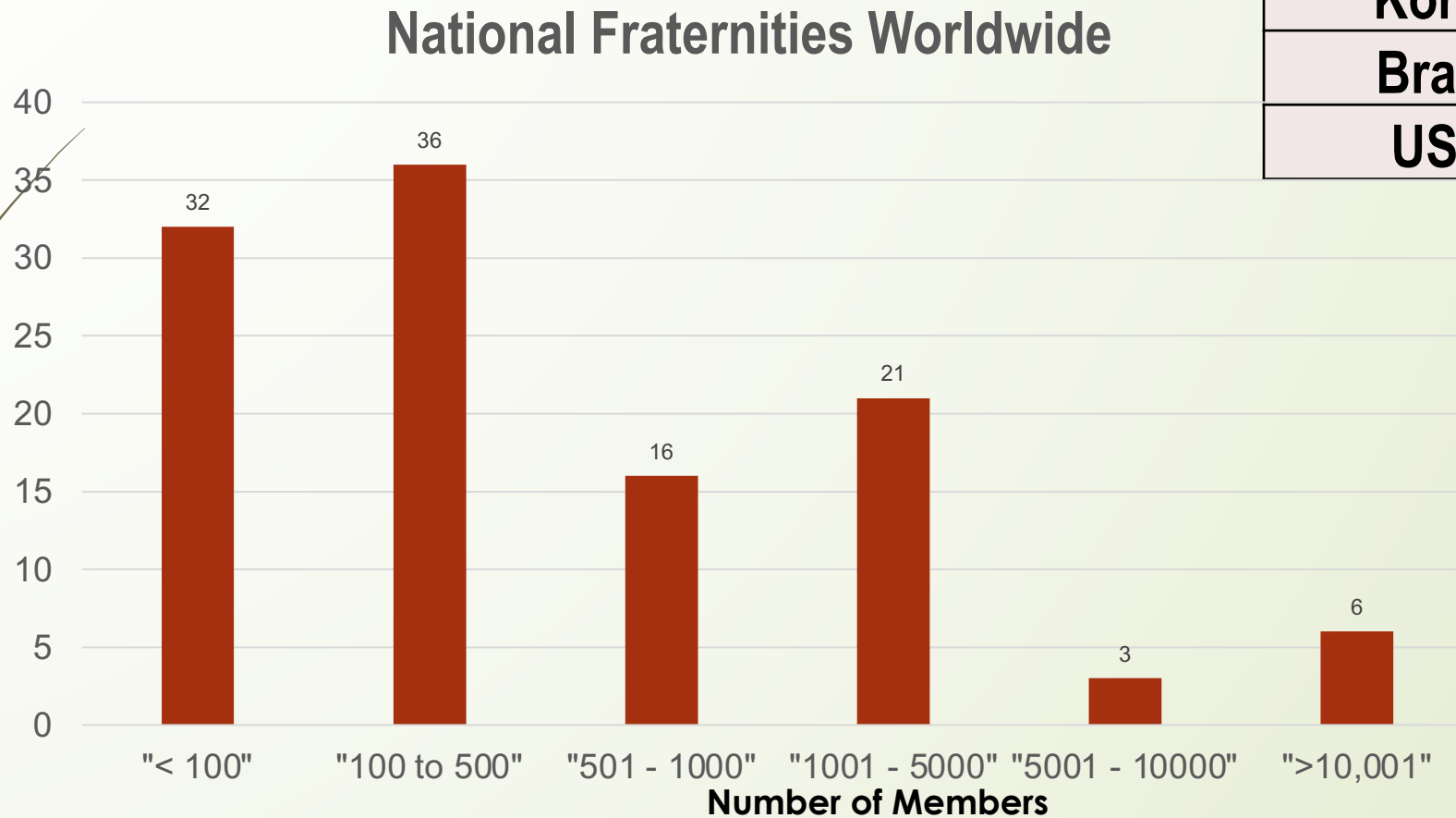
? How does it compare worldwide?



VOCATIONS

? How does it compare worldwide?

National Fraternity	Number of Members
Italy	18304
Mexico	15879
India	15200
Korea	14264
Brazil	13622
USA	12240



VOCATIONS

❓ “ ‘It’s not what we do but who we are.’ We live the Gospel by following the example of St. Francis. We make a life-long promise to live out our Baptismal commitment.”

19, 2022

Formation Friday August

COMMUNICATIONS

“Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature.”

Mark 16:15

“Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.”

Eph 4:15



- ❑ Relates to our ability to attract and retain vocations**

- ❑ Recent achievements and continued efforts:**
 - ❑ New Database**
 - ❑ Enhancements for website and Facebook page**
 - ❑ Councilor Groups**

COMMUNICATIONS

- ❑ **Email Lists**
- ❑ **Commission Workshops**
- ❑ **Meet and Greets with new
Regional Executive Councils (RECs)**
- ❑ **Translations**
- ❑ **Guidelines – clarifying topics**



RELATIONSHIPS

“My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and act on it.”

Luke 8:21

RELATIONSHIPS

- ❑ The Order
- ❑ Franciscan Family
- ❑ Church
- ❑ World



RELATIONSHIPS

- ❑ Within the Order
 - ❑ building relationships with the Regional Ministers & RECs.
 - ❑ Visitations - 10 (plus two more this year)
 - ❑ Elections - 8 (plus one more this year)
 - ❑ CIOFS – Secretariats
 - ❑ YouFRA

RELATIONSHIPS

- ❑ Within the Order (continued)
 - ❑ RMs are building relationships with one another
 - ❑ Pen pals

RELATIONSHIPS

- ❑ Within the Franciscan Family
 - ❑ Spiritual Assistants
 - ❑ Building relationships
 - ❑ Learning from them
 - ❑ Fraternities without SAs

24

Members of OFS,
28%

OFM 18%

OFM Conv
8%

OFM Cap
12%

TOR
3%

3rd Order Franciscan
religious 17%

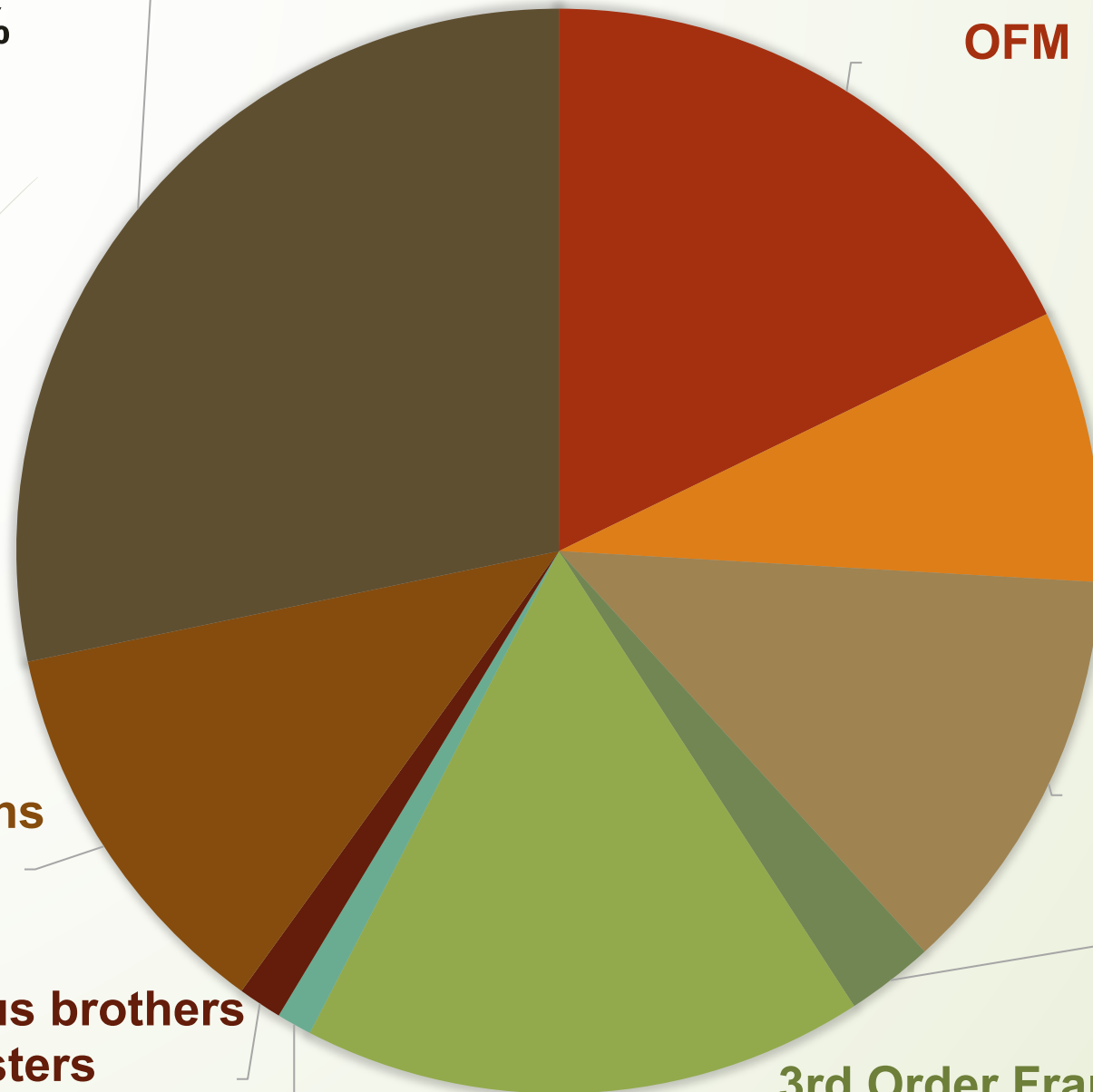
Poor Clares 1%

Other religious brothers
and sisters
1%

Diocesan
priest/deacons
12%

The Local
Spiritual
Assistants to
OFS
Fraternities as
of Dec 31, 2022

What do you
see?



RELATIONSHIPS

? Franciscan Family

? Franciscan Organizations

- Joint Committee on Franciscan Unity
- Franciscans International
- ELFO Executive Leaders of Franciscans Organizations
- Franciscan Family Forum
- Franciscan Federation
- Franciscan Action Network

RELATIONSHIPS

- ❑ Church
 - ❑ Connecting with Bishops
 - ❑ Introduce new RMs
 - ❑ Inform/remind about OFS in the diocese
 - ❑ Send newsletter
 - ❑ Recognize anniversary of installation, birthday



RELATIONSHIPS

- ❑ Church
- ❑ OFS Presence in Diocesan activities
- ❑ Parish activities



RELATIONSHIPS

- ❑ World
- ❑ The World is Our Cloister
- ❑ **We evangelize through our example:
we also evangelize through our service
to others (our apostolates)**



Where will you find Secular Franciscans?

Volunteers at:

- Soup kitchens
- Food Banks
- Eucharistic Ministers
- Readers
- Legislative Advocacy
- Environmental Protection
- Conservationist
- Care for the elderly
- Care for children
- Care for the lepers
- Catechists
- Respect for Life
- Immigration

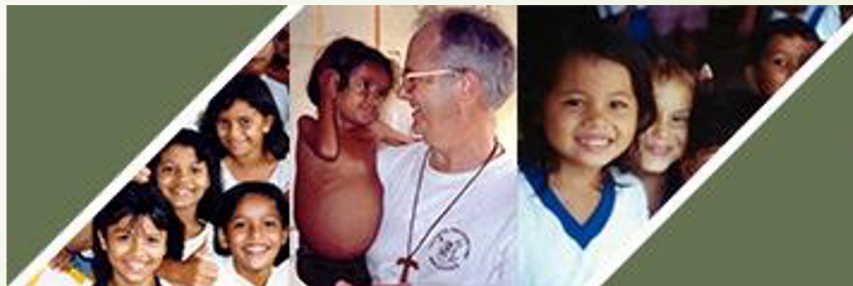


FRANCISCAN
FAMILY
APOSTOLATE

<https://franciscanfamilyapostolate.org/>

First Nation's Outreach
Connecting Two Worlds

Lawrence, Kansas
2020

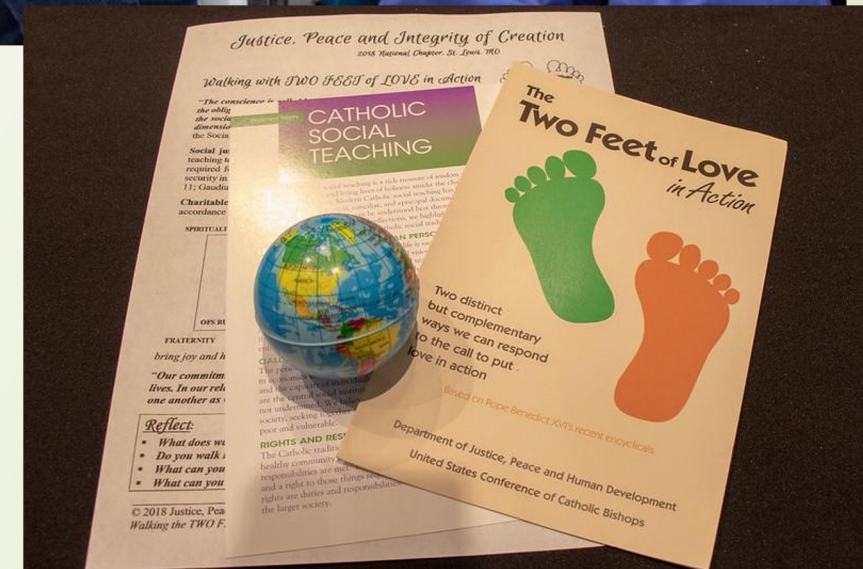


"We may not be able to solve all the world's problems, but we can solve some."

-Jim Flickinger

<https://www.amazonrelief.org/>

Secular Franciscans in Action



Other Thoughts

- ❑ Publications Updates
 - ❑ Ritual
 - ❑ Hidden Power III (White Rule book)

Other Thoughts

❑ Appointments

❑ Commissions and Committees

❑ Centenaries Task Force – already producing material.

FUTURE

- ❑ Communications Summit - 2024
- ❑ Communications and relationships with:
 - ❑ our brothers and sisters for whom English is not first language
 - ❑ youth
- ❑ Guidance about conflict resolution, respectful dialogue



**WE
THANK
YOU**

**WE
NEED
YOU**

Fr. John De La Riva, OFM Cap, Donna Hollis OFS, Joshua Molidor OFS
Jane DeRose-Bamman OFS, Mary Frances Charsky OFS, Layna Maher OFS, Diane Menditto OFS, Claudia Kauzlarich OFS, Kathleen Molaro OFS
Cherryle Fruge OFS, Carolyn Townes OFS, Susan Ronan OFS



